

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

From Porter & Coates we have received "Lay Sermons, Addresses, and Reviews," by Thomas Henry Huxley, LL. D., F. R. S. Published by D. Appleton & Co. This book is a collection of the various addresses that have been delivered by Professor Huxley before both scientific and popular audiences in England during the last sixteen years, and the papers he has contributed to various magazines and reviews during the same period. The subjects treated are:—"On the Advantages of Improving Natural Knowledge," "Emancipation—Black and White," "A Liberal Education, and where to find it," "Scientific Education," "On the Educational Value of the Natural History Sciences," "On the Study of Zoology," "On the Physical Basis of Life," "The Scientific Aspect of Positivism," "On a Piece of Chalk," "Geological Contemporaneity and Persistent Types of Life," "Geological Reform," "The Origin of Species," "Criticisms of 'The Origin of Species,'" "On Descartes' Discourse Touching the Method of Using One's Reason Rightly and of Speaking Scientific Truth," and "Spontaneous Generation." Professor Huxley is one of the most advanced scientific thinkers and investigators of the day, and the book before us, which presents his theories in a compact and popular form, should be read by all who wish to obtain a proper idea of the position in which such men as Huxley, Darwin, and other seekers after truth stand, especially in relation to the moral and religious ideas of the age. Professor Huxley's peculiar theories have been savagely attacked, especially by theologians; but any candid reader of the work before us must admit that much of the antagonism manifested toward him is due to the fact that his opponents cannot or will not take an unprejudiced view of his side of the case, and that an apparent antagonism toward the religious ideas of the day upon his part has been developed more by the over-zeal of his opponents than by anything that he has really said or done. But whether the reader will agree with Professor Huxley or not in some of his peculiar views, the book before us is one that ought to engage the attention of thinking men, and, apart from its scientific theories, there will be found in it much hard common sense, especially about education, that will commend itself to those who think that culture should consist in something else than a familiarity with the Greek and Latin classics.

From J. B. Lippincott & Co. we have received "Optim and the Opium Appetite," by Alonzo Calkin, M. D. This very interesting work is a complete history of opium-eating in all ages and countries, with a scientific analysis of all the phases of the opium appetite, and much valuable information with regard to the manufacture of the drug and the commerce in it. The subject has never been treated before with anything like the same thoroughness, and Dr. Calkin has produced a book that will be a physiological study for the medical man and a psychological study for the philanthropist. Incidentally, notices of other narcotics and stimulants are made, such as alcoholic beverages, cannabis indica, tobacco, and cocoa, tea, and coffee, in their hygienic aspects and pathological relations. Dr. Calkin's literary style is very involved, and on that account his book is not as easy or as pleasant reading as it might be, but it contains a great amount of very interesting and valuable information, and it will well repay a perusal from those who read only for amusement.

"Who was She?" published by Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger, is a story of very decided merit, but which bears upon its pages the evidences of being a first effort. The plot is well digested, and there are some admirable sketches of character and some fine bits of description. There are numerous crudities of style, but the excellences of the story are more than enough to counterbalance them, and give reasonable expectation of something better from the same pen in future.

From D. Ashmead we have received "Our Sister Republic," by Colonel Albert S. Evans. Published by the Columbian Book Company. This is an animated description of a trip through Mexico during 1869 and 1870, and it abounds in picturesque descriptions of the country and people. The author undertakes to defend the Mexicans from many of the aspersions that are cast upon their national as well as their personal character, but it appears to us that he takes a rather more favorable view of the condition of things in general in Mexico than the facts warrant. The journey of which this book is a record was taken in company with Mr. Seward upon his recent trip to Mexico, and the author had excellent opportunities to see the best side of everything, and his book, if not very profound, is written in a readable and entertaining style that will commend it to the mass of readers.

J. B. Lippincott & Co. send us "Piano and Musical Letter," by G. de la Motte. Published by Lee & Shepard. The issue of a fourth edition of this work within a very few months of its first appearance is the best evidence that could be adduced to show the appreciation in which it is held by musicians. It contains within a small compass a great variety of valuable information on musical subjects, and it should be in the hand of every student of music who wishes to know something of the science of the art.

"The Enaid in Modern American" is the title of a brochure published from the Winstead Herald office, Winstead, Connecticut, the author of which has had the grace to keep his name from the title-page. It consists of the first and fourth books of the "Enaid," rendered into flowing verse and rather slangy language. The first book is in the hexameters of the original, or what are near enough to hexameters for all practical pur-

poses. The fourth book, for variety sake we presume, is rendered in a somewhat livelier measure. The translator calls this translation an earnest effort to give the grand old poet a lift, in view of the fact that classical learning seems to be falling into disrepute, and we cordially aid him in his effort by praising it as about as clever a bit of fun as we have met with for some time. In spite of the free and easy "modern American" into which the lines of Virgil have been turned, the translation is often curiously close to the original. The pamphlet is illustrated by a number of clever comic cuts, which exhibit Æneas and his comrades from a strictly modern American point of view.

Part No. 48 of "Zell's Popular Encyclopedia" reaches the title "Reconnaissance." This valuable work is now fast approaching completion, and those who contemplate subscribing should do so at once, for it will only be on sale at the subscription price for a limited period. It is undoubtedly the most complete work of the kind that has ever been issued at anything like the same price; and although its articles are necessarily brief, it is, in the variety of its subjects and the late date to which it is brought down, the most complete encyclopedia before the public. As a work of ready reference it will be invaluable, and it should find a place upon the shelves of every library.

From Turner & Co. we have received "Every Saturday, Appleton's Journal, and Our Boys and Girls." The Central News Company sends us the latest numbers of "Punch and Fun." Peterson's Counterfeit Detector for November 15 contains descriptions of several new and dangerous counterfeits, and other important information.

DISKAELE'S CHAPTER OF AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

The English papers publish Mr. Disraeli's preface to the collected edition of his works—a sort of "Biographia Literaria." We make the following interesting extracts:—

An American gentleman, with more than courtesy, has forwarded to me a vast number of notices of "Lothair" which have appeared in the leading journals of his country. He tells me that, irrespective of literary "organs," there are in the Union 5000 newspapers, and it is not impossible that some notice of "Lothair" might appear in each of these. However various may be the opinions of those which I thus possess, they appear to me generally to be sincere, and in point of literary ability, taste, style, and critical acumen, I think they need not fear competition with the similar productions of our own land.

My English publishers have also made a collection of the notices of this work in our own country, and, though we have not five thousand newspapers, the aggregate of articles is in amount perhaps unprecedented. I have nothing to complain of in their remarks. One could hardly expect at home the judicial impartiality of a foreign land. Personal influences inevitably mingle in some degree with such productions. There are critics who abstractly do not approve of successful books, particularly if they have failed in the same style; social acquaintances also of a lettered land, and especially contemporaries whose public life has not exactly realized the vain dreams of their fussy existence, will seize the accustomed opportunity of welcoming with affected discrimination about nothing, and elaborate controversy about trifles, the production of a friend; and there is always, both in politics and literature, the race of the Dennises, the Oldmixon, and Curis, who flatter themselves that by systematically libelling some eminent personage of their times they have a chance of descending to posterity; but, so far as I am concerned, they have always been disappointed.

A distinguished individual has suggested that, in a preface to the edition of my collected works, I might give my own views of the purpose of "Lothair." It strikes me, with all deference, that it would be not a little presumptuous for an author thus to be the self-critic of volumes which appeared only a few months ago. Their purport to the writer seems clear enough, and as they have been more extensively read both by the people of the United Kingdom and the United States than any work that has appeared for the last half century, I will even venture to assume that on this point they are of the same opinion as myself.

But, on some other works, the youngest of which were written a quarter of a century ago, it would perhaps be in me not impertinent now to make a few remarks. "Coningsby," "Sybil," and "Tenebris" form a real trilogy—that is to say, they treat of the same subject, and endeavor to complete that treatment. The origin and character of our political parties, their influence on the condition of the people of this country, some picture of the moral and physical condition of that people, and some intimation of the means by which it might be elevated and improved, were themes which had long engaged my meditation.

Born in a library, and trained from early childhood by learned men who did not share the passions and the prejudices of our political and social life, I had imbibed on some subjects conclusions different from those which generally prevail, and especially with reference to the history of our own country. How an oligarchy had been substituted for a kingdom, and a narrow-minded and bigoted fanaticism flourished in the name of religious liberty—were problems long to be insoluble, but which early interested me. But what most attracted my musing, even as a boy, were the elements of our political parties, and the strange mystification by which that which was national in its constitution had become odious, and that which was exclusive was presented as popular.

To change back the oligarchy into a generous aristocracy round a real throne; to infuse life and vigor into the Church as the trainer of the nation, by the revival of vocation, then dumb, on a wide basis, and not, as has been since done, in the shape of a priestly section; to establish a commercial code on the principles successfully exemplified by Lord Brougham at Utrecht, and which, though buffeted at the time by a Whig Parliament, were subsequently and triumphantly vindicated by his political pupil and heir, Mr. Pitt; to govern Ireland according to the policy of Charles I. and not of Oliver Cromwell; to emancipate the political constituency of 1832 from its sectarian bondage and contracted sympathies; to elevate the physical as well as the moral condition of the people, by establishing that labor required regulation as

much as property, and all this rather by the use of ancient forms and the restoration of the past than by political revolutions founded on abstract ideas, appeared to be the course which the circumstances of this country required, and which, practically speaking, could only, with all their faults and backslidings, be undertaken and accomplished by a reconstructed Tory party.

The derivation and character of political parties, the condition of the people which had been the consequence of them, the duties of the Church as a main remedial agency in our present state, were the three principal topics which I intended to treat, but I found they were too vast for the space I had allotted to myself.

These were all launched in "Coningsby"; but the origin and condition of political parties—the first portion of the theme—was the only one completely handled in that work.

I had been in Parliament seven years when the trilogy was published, and during that period I had not written anything; but in 1837, the year I entered the House of Commons, I had published two works, "Henrietta Temple" and "Venetia." These are not political works, but they would commemorate feelings more enduring than public passions, and they were written with care and diligence. They were inscribed to two friends, the best I ever had, and not the least gifted. One was the inimitable D'Orsay, the most accomplished and the most engaging character that has figured in this century, who, with the form and universal genius of an Alcibiades, combined a brilliant wit and a heart of quick affection, and who, placed in a public position, would have displayed a courage, a judgment, and a commanding intellect which would have ranked him with the leaders of mankind. The other was one who had enjoyed that public opportunity which had been denied to Count D'Orsay. The world has recognized the political courage, the versatile ability, and the masculine eloquence of Lord Lyndhurst; but his intimates only were acquainted with the tenderness of his disposition, the sweetness of his temper, his ripe scholarship, and the playfulness of his bright and airy spirit.

There was yet a barren interval of five years of my life, so far as literature was concerned, the publication of "Henrietta Temple" and "Venetia," and my earlier works. In 1832 I had published "Contarini Fleming" and "Alroy." I had then returned from two years' travel in the Mediterranean regions, and I published "Contarini Fleming" anonymously, and in the midst of revolution. It was almost stillborn, and having written it with deep thought and feeling, I was naturally discouraged from further effort. Yet the youthful writer, who may, like me, be inclined to despair, may learn also from my example not to be precipitate in his resolves. Generally, "Contarini Fleming" found sympathetic readers. Goethe and Beckford were impelled to communicate their unsolicited opinions of this work to its anonymous author, and I have seen a criticism on it by Heine, of which any writer may be justly proud. Yet all this does not prevent me from being conscious that it would have been better if a subject so essentially psychological had been treated at a more mature period of life.

I had commenced "Alroy" the year after my first publication, and had thrown the manuscript aside. Being, at that time, in the habit of visiting the traditional tomb of the kings, my thoughts returned to the marvellous career which had attracted my boyhood, and I shortly after finished a work which I began the year after I wrote "Vivian Gray."

What my opinion was of that my first work, written in 1826, was shown by my publishing my second anonymously. Books written by boys which pretend to give a picture of manners and to deal in knowledge of human nature must be affected. They can be, at the best, but the result of an acting on knowledge not acquired by experience. Of such circumstances exaggeration is a necessary consequence, and false taste accompanies exaggeration. Nor is it necessary to remark that a total want of art must be observed in such pages, for that is a failing incident to all first efforts. "Vivian Gray" is essentially a puerile work, but it has baffled even the efforts of its creator to suppress it. Its fate has been strange; and not the least remarkable thing is, that forty-four years after its publication I must ask the indulgence of the reader for its continued and inevitable reappearance.

EXTRAVAGANCE.

Articles of French production have naturally increased in price. Champagne wine has felt the effects of the desolation of the whole region in which it is produced, and the wine merchants have put up the price in proportion to the cost of their future supplies. Kid gloves have likewise felt in advance the expected effects of a short supply from a beleaguered city. Fortunately, these are articles that we can well dispense with. The less champagne that is brought into the country the better; it is not only an unhealthy extravagance. Nowhere in the world, except, perhaps, in some of the Spanish American countries, do men drink wine at an ordinary dinner at a second-class restaurant, and pay five dollars a bottle for it. Frenchmen buy it for a dollar, and drink but little of it at that cost. It is not that which is bad, but not near so bad as drinking whisky, let a taste be cultivated for the American wines, which are generally purer than the imported, and are equally palatable, and will do a man less harm. The matter of gloves belongs to the ladies. We confess to a weakness toward gloves, and always thought that extravagance in gloves and slippers was more than innocent, that it rose to the dignity of a female virtue. It is just to the sex to say that they have never failed in their duty in this regard, and whatever faults may be charged to them, they have not been wanting in this respect. But gloves do not come from Paris alone, nor from France alone. The French are the best and the dearest. Very good gloves can be brought at retail for twenty-five cents in Italy and in some other parts of Europe, and the English gloves are very good. There is no sense in giving \$3 for a pair of gloves that a body will wear only once or twice. Let the cheaper articles be introduced among those who set the fashions and fix the measure of extravagance.

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INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA. Incorporated 1794. Charter Perpetual. CAPITAL, \$1,000,000. ASSETS, \$2,788,563. Losses paid since organization, \$23,700,000. Receipts of Premiums, 1869, \$1,891,331.45 Interest from Investments, 1869, 114,495.74 \$1,006,234.19 Losses paid, 1869, \$1,035,882.94 STATEMENT OF THE ASSETS. First Mortgages on City Property, \$760,450 United States Government and other Loan Bonds, 1,123,846 Railroad, Bank and Canal Stocks, 58,765 Cash in Bank and Office, 341,625 Loans on Collateral Security, 82,508 Notes Receivable, mostly Marine Premiums, 331,944 Accrued Interest, 90,237 Premiums in course of transmission, 85,193 Unsettled Marine Premiums, 100,000 Real Estate, Office of Company, Philadelphia, 30,000 \$4,788,651 DIRECTORS: Arthur G. Coffin, Samuel W. Jones, John A. Brown, Charles Taylor, Ambrose White, William Welsh, S. Morris Wain, John Mason, George L. Harrison, Francis H. Cope, Edward H. Trotter, Edward S. Clarke, T. Charlton Henry, Alfred D. Jessup, Louis C. Madeira, Charles W. Cushman, Clement A. Gracoin, William Brookie, RICHARD G. COFFIN, President. CHARLES PLATT, Vice-President. MATTHIAS MAIR, Secretary. C. H. HERVEY, Assistant Secretary. 34

1870. CHARTER PERPETUAL 1870. Franklin Fire Insurance Company OF PHILADELPHIA. Office, Nos. 435 and 437 CHESTNUT St. Assets Aug. 1, '70 \$3,009,888'24 CAPITAL, ACCRUED SURPLUS AND PREMIUMS, \$400,000.00 INCOME FOR 1870, \$210,000.00 LOSSES PAID IN 1869, \$144,905.42 Losses paid since 1829 over \$5,500,000 Perpetual and Temporary Policies on Liberal Terms. The Company also issues policies upon the Rents of all kinds of Buildings, Ground Rents, and Mortgages. The "FRANKLIN" has no DISPUTED CLAIM. DIRECTORS: Alfred G. Baker, Samuel Grant, George W. Richards, Isaac Lea, George Faies, Alfred P. Fisher, Thomas Spies, William S. Grant, Thomas S. Ellis, Gustavus B. Benson, GEORGE FAIES, Vice-President, JAMES W. MOLLISTER, Secretary, (13 THEODORE M. REGER, Assistant Secretary.

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